

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 AF-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOXENBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: FRANCO VIGIL - ATMOSPHERICS

1. THE FRANCO VIGIL CONTINES, BUT THE NATION IS QUITE CALM.
BUSINESS AND ENTERTAINMENT CONTINUE AS MUCH AS USUAL.
FROM RIGHT TO LEFT NO ONE EXPECTS ANY SIGNIFICANT DISTURBANCES
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AT THE TRANSITION.

2. THE GOS CONTINUES TO FUNCTION NORMALLY ALTHOUGH MOST HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION IS OBVIOUSLY FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE TRANSITION. ON THE OTHER BURNING ISSUE, THE SAHARA, THE GOS, WITHOUT FRANCO AT THE HELM, MADE A FUNDAMENTAL DECISION TO TRY ANEW TO REACH SOME AGREEMENT WITH MOROCCO. WHETHER THEY WILL IS PERHAPS OPEN TO QUESTION, BUT THEY ARE MAKING A BIG EFFORT.

-- THE MILITARY, AND TO A GREATER EXTENT, THE POLICE FORCES, ARE ON SOMETHING OF AN ALERT, BUT THIS IS A MODEST ALERT IN KEEPING WITH THE GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR MAJOR PUBLIC SECURITY MEASURES.

-- SPANISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES QUIETLY RETURNED TO LISBON OCT 23 IN FIRST GESTURE PRESUMABLY CALCULATED TO SMOOTH OVER RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY TROUBLED BY BURNING OF SPANISH OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROPERTY IN LATE SEPTEMBER ANTI-SPANISH DEMONSTRATION.

-- 15 ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION FRAP WERE ARRESTED IN BARCELONA OCT. 26.

-- ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REGENCY, WHICH WOULD TAKE OVER TEMPORARILY THE HEADSHIP OF STATE WHEN FRANCO DIES, HAVE BEEN IN MADRID SINCE OCT 26. THEY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENCY, FRANCO'S PALACE, AND THE "CORTES" WHERE THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM, DE LA MATA, HAS BEEN HOLDING VIGIL SINCE LATE LAST WEEK.

3. CERTAINLY THE GOVT IS NOT ABOUT TO EMBARK ON ANY BOLD NEW PROGRAMS, BUT NEITHER HAS FRANCO'S INCAPACITY PRODUCED GOVERNMENTAL PARALYSIS IN RESPECT OF EITHER DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS OR THE PRESSING QUESTION OF THE SAHARA.
STABLER

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